

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187839

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /033 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:SCKEITER:JO

APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

EB/AN - JBMAGNOR

L/EB - PMICKEY

CAB - ECORBOY

DOT/OTS - JFLYNN (INFO)

EUR/NE - SWORREL

FAA/AIA - RTOENNIESSEN (INFO)

DOT/OST/TGC - PLARSEN

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P 291614Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AVIATION USER CHARGES

REF : LONDON A-352; STATE 125590

1. INFORMATION FORWARDED BY REPAIR HAS NOT CHANGED
VIEW OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES THAT OBJECTIONABLE ASPECTS
OF BRITISH CHARGING SYSTEM HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY REMOVED
AND THAT PROMPT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE DESIRABLE,
COVERING BOTH BAA AND CAA CHARGES.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE APPROACH DEPT OF TRADE
ASAP TO PROPOSE THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BE HELD AT
EARLY DATE. SINCE ARNOLD KEAN OF CAA (SEE REFTTEL) WILL
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PAGE 02 STATE 187839

BE IN U.S. AUGUST 10 FOR AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

MEETING, WE SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR U.K. OFFICIALS INVOLVED TO MEET LATER THAT WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

3. U.S. VIEW REGARDING BRITISH LANDING FEES REMAINS AS STATED IN FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF LETTER TO GILDEA PROPOSED IN REFTEL. IT WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY LATEST BRITISH DATA.

4. U.S. POSITION REGARDING TERMINAL NAVIGATION CHARGES HAS SHIFTED SOMEWHAT SINCE LAST FALL, AND IS NOW BASED ON FOLLOWING ARGUMENT:

A. U.K. IS RECOVERING FULL COSTS OF ITS TERMINAL NAVIGATION SERVICES. (STATEMENT BY P. ROBINSON OF CAA IN U.S.-U.K. USER CHARGE TALKS IN MARCH 1975.)

B. BRITISH CHARGE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS MORE THAN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS FOR THESE SERVICES, AND LARGE AIRCRAFT MORE THAN SMALLER ONES.

C. STUDIES SUGGEST THAT A FLAT CHARGE PER FLIGHT, IRRESPECTIVE OF ORIGIN OR AIRCRAFT SIZE EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR A SMALL ADJUSTMENT FOR WAKE-TURBULENCE, WOULD MOST ACCURATELY REFLECT COSTS.

D. WITH 100 PERCENT COST RECOVERY, INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION IS THAT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ARE SUBSIDIZING DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, AND LARGE AIRCRAFT ARE SUBSIDIZING SMALLER ONES. SINCE U.S.-OPERATED AIRCRAFT IN THE U.K. TEND TO BE LARGE ONES ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, THIS MEANS THAT U.S.-OPERATED AIRCRAFT ARE OVERPAYING, THUS SUBSIDIZING OTHER AIRCRAFT, AN UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION.

5. EMBASSY MAY USE INFO IN PARAS 3 AND 4 AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, IN MAKING APPROACH OR IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS REGARDING COLEMAN-DELL LETTER, WHICH FOLLOWS SHORTLY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIRPORT FEES, LANDING TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE187839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCKEITER:JO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760293-0596
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976078/aaaaagrw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON A-352, 76 STATE 125590
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - AVIATION USER CHARGES
TAGS: EAIR, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006